

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 27-30.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 2, 29 and 30 have been amended and claims 25-28 have been canceled. Claims 5-10, 15-24 and 31-36 have been withdrawn from consideration. Thus, claims 1-4, 11-14 and 29-30 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement of January 28, 2005, the Applicants elect to prosecute the claims directed to Species III, claims 1-4, 11-14 and 25-30. The election is made without traverse. The Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 11-14 and 29-30 Recite Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action of March 9, 2005, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Masuyama (US 6674471) and claims 3-4, 11-14 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuyama in view of Maki (US 5907357), and further in view of Fuji (US 5768203). In addition, claims 27-30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is noted that claims 25-28 have been canceled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 2.

Thus, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include the feature of a delay circuit, which is not disclosed by any of the cited references, alone or combined, as noted in the outstanding Office Action at page 8. Claims 29 and 30 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 2, respectively.

For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claims 1 and 2, as amended, are allowable over the cited prior art references. As claims 1 and 2 are allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 3-4, 11-14 and 29-30, each of which depends from one of claims 1 and 2, are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 2, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4, 11-14 and 29-30 are respectfully requested.

Rejoinder Of Claims 5-10, 15-24 and 31-36

The Applicants submit that claim 1 is generic to claims 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 31 and 33, and claim 2 is generic to claims 6, 8, 10, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 32 and 34-36. Accordingly, upon allowance of the claims directed to the elected species, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims directed to the non-elected species, i.e., claims 5-10, 15-24 and 31-36, which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the features of generic claim 1 or 2, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

Conclusion

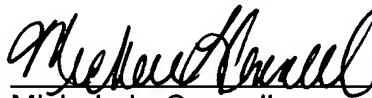
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, rejoinder of claims 5-10, 15-24 and 31-36, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1-24 and 29-36, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 100353-00095.

Respectfully submitted,

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